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Letter dated 22 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York, in connection with the request by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the Court, to issue an arrest warrant against President Omar al-Bashir of the Sudan for crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

While the OIC Group in New York does not condone violence and impunity, there should be a balance between the quest for justice and the need to promote peace and stability. OIC is therefore gravely concerned about the effect of this action by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the ongoing peace and reconciliation efforts in the Sudan.

The action by the Chief Prosecutor to indict President Bashir will adversely affect the ongoing peace initiatives, including the implementation of resolution 1769 (2007), and complicate the stabilization efforts in Darfur and also the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Southern Sudan.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference therefore seeks the intervention of the Security Council, using its powers under article 16 of the Rome Statute, to defer any possible indictment against President Bashir, so as to facilitate the political processes under way to achieve a lasting and peaceful settlement of the Darfur crisis.

I should be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman, Organization of the Islamic Conference Group

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